

28 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SIE-5: Soviet Air Defense Capabilities 1952-54

*File
SIE-5*

BACKGROUND

1. Initiation of SIE-5 was approved by the IAC on 1 November 1951 as a re-examination of a critically important subject on which much new evidence was available.

SUBSTANCE

2. The chief difficulty in SIE-5 has been a prolonged difference of opinion between Air Force and practically all of the other IAC agencies, particularly Navy and O/SI, over certain crucial aspects of the estimate. The result was a protracted series of working level and IAC Representative meetings in May, June, July, and finally September, mainly ⁱⁿ an attempt to modify the paper to meet the AF point of view. During these meetings the other agencies accepted numerous compromises in an effort to secure AF agreement, in many cases reluctantly retreating from previously held positions solely to avoid dissent.

3. When several differences were still unresolved, O/NE called in three eminent technical consultants* to join the Board

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and hear the evidence of both sides. They accepted the AF point of view in ~~some~~ ^a few cases but not in the majority of cases, and support the estimate as now drafted.

4. Air Force now accepts the great bulk of the estimate, but still feels that the evidence is insufficient to warrant an estimate on several major points. The other agencies, however, have reached the limit of their concessions and we believe that ONI, OSI, G-2, JIC, and State approve the paper as it stands. In the light of the prolonged efforts to reach full agreement, O/NE believes that further attempts at resolving differences would be useless.

5. As to the content of the AF statement ^(attached) that, in some cases "meager evidence has been used to establish a judgment," the Board feels that our readers are entitled to our best judgment irrespective of the inadequacy of intelligence on many matters of concern. In the opinion of the other agencies the evidence is adequate to support the estimates made.

6. RECOMMENDATION: (a) That SIE-5 be approved as drafted, with an appended AF comment; (b) that the three Appendices be published ~~with the estimate, which because of its classification will have~~
~~limited distribution.~~

under separate cover

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b that the est.

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